

**Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, May 2, 1844,
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by
John Spencer Bassett.**

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, May 2, 1844.

. . . . Notwithstanding my extremity, you will have perceived from the Globe that with the aid of my daughter as an amanuensis, I endeavored to give impulse to your views and wishes in regard to Texas. The moment that Calhoun saw from the Globe, that Mr. Van Buren would go for bringing Texas in by a vote in congress as soon as practicable, he immediately addressed his letter to Packenham, 1 putting it on ground to drive off every northern man from the support of the measure. He goes for renewing the War in the midst of the armistice between Mexico and Texas upon the ground that Texas must be taken to support Slavery, without regard to any Northern interest, principle or prejudice whatever—being perfectly conscious that this would be taking a stand which Mr. Van Buren could not take, that it would drive off every northern man from the re-annexation, that the treaty would be thus defeated by an overwhelming vote in the Senate and that he would be furnished with a pretext to unite the whole South upon himself as the champion of its cause and give him the pretext of urging the slave-holding States into his scheme of dissolution of the Union, and a Southern confederacy as the only means of obtaining its union with Texas and hoping thus to make himself the great man of the fragment which he expects to tear from the embrace of our glorious Govt. From the day that you stifled his first demon attempt by your text— “The Union must be preserved,” this natural conspirator has been brooding over his abominable design. He has had Duff Green in London in the pay of Tyler, to work upon the British Govt. to give pretexts and secure support to the conspiracy. Upshur and Tyler were, we now learn, the tools of Calhoun throughout the

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whole period since his retirement from the Senate; and, if Upshur had not been killed, he would have been sent to France to give Calhoun the opportunity to consummate his plot. A part of it was the secession of the whole Southern delegation from Congress on the failure of the prospect before that body, and I have from one of the most honorable Southern members of the Senate, that Upshur actually broached the idea to him, of ordering the whole South to wheel out of Congress at the word of command.

1 Richard (aft. Sir Richard) Pakenham was then the British minister in Washington. Calhoun's celebrated letter to him, Apr. 27, on the annexation of Texas, is in his Works , V. 343, and in Niles's Register , LXVI. 202.

Their plan now of accomplishing their object is changed. It is to start Tyler as the Southern candidate for the presidency, to run down 0306 282 Mr. Van Buren as the enemy of the recovery of Texas, because he prefers a practicable mode to effect the object, to take the place of that which Calhoun himself defeated for fear that it might be embraced and carried by Van Buren. To aid this project they assume that you are favorable to Calhoun's now unmasked scheme which meditates a dissolution of the Union as its only means, and that you are against Mr. Van Buren whose measures under existing circumstances, present the only hope of giving Texas again to the whole union. The truth is Tyler and Calhoun will now direct themselves might and main to assure the election of Clay. as he is out and out against the admission of Texas, and hostile to every Southern interest, they hope in case of his election to increase the discontents in the South and produce that state of things which may make Mr. Calhoun the great man of that region and famous in history as the founder of a New Empire in the South, created by his overthrow of the great national bond—the result of our revolution. I should be glad to have your views upon the new aspect which the late disclosures give to the Texas question. . . .